



NEWS RELEASE

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Air Quality Watch PEOPLE WITH RESPIRATORY CONDITIONS CAUTIONED

“People may have noticed a change in the air quality recently due to the increased agricultural burning that is common in the Midwest during the spring. These controlled burns in combination with the winds from the south result in elevated levels of particulate matter and ozone in the air in Lincoln and Lancaster County,” said Rick Thorson, Air Quality Supervisor, with the Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department.

The majority of people will not be affected; however, individuals with asthma, allergies, lung disorders, or other respiratory conditions may need to take extra precautions, such as avoiding extensive physical activity outdoors. Keeping windows and doors closed when smoke is in the air can reduce the impact in the home. If health effects are experienced, remain indoors, and consult your doctor.

The Health Department monitors air quality 24 hours a day for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone, and PM2.5 (fine particles), high levels of which can affect people’s health. If air quality conditions present a significant health risk to the general public, the Health Director will issue a health advisory. Individuals who are interested in monitoring the intensity of burning activities can access a fire map link at the website at www.lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: air).

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